

1.92 Conservation of the Galapagos Islands

CONSIDERING that because of their unique natural resources the Galapagos Islands are an important natural heritage for Ecuador and all humanity, recognized by their inscription on the World Heritage List;

CONSIDERING that terrestrial and marine natural resources of the Galapagos Islands deserve every necessary effort to ensure their protection and conservation for the benefit of future generations;

CONSIDERING that the management approach used by the Republic of Ecuador for the Galapagos Islands has served as a model for various protected habitats around the world;

CONSIDERING that it is important to acknowledge the efforts made by the Republic of Ecuador to ensure conservation of the archipelago;

CONSIDERING that the species introduced into the Galapagos Islands have had an irreversible impact on much of the area's valuable ecosystems, and it is of the utmost importance to make every necessary effort to control and eradicate these species;

CONSIDERING that in recent years the Galapagos Islands have been affected by the exploitation of its resources, impacting some of the major and in particular marine ecosystems, which should be managed in accordance with an appropriate Management Plan;

RECALLING that the Galapagos National Park has a Management Plan, which was revised and approved in 1996, and that its implementation is a priority;

CONSIDERING that the growth in human population and tourism as well as the introduction of alien species require that the policies for minimizing the negative impact on ecosystems be strengthened;

CONSIDERING that it is important to encourage and support the Government of Ecuador in strengthening management capacity to ensure the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON the Government of Ecuador to implement policies and actions that will lead to limiting the growth in human population, to minimizing the introduction of further alien species to the islands, to controlling tourist activity and to ensuring implementation of the Management Plan for the Marine Resources Reserve;
2. RECOMMENDS that the Government of Ecuador take all the necessary action that will lead to the control and elimination of the alien species present on the archipelago;
3. RECOMMENDS that international agencies give the highest priority to supporting the Republic of Ecuador to strengthen those actions that will help implement the protection and conservation policies necessary for the Galapagos Islands;
4. RECOMMENDS that the Government of Ecuador assign the highest political, technical and financial priority to implementation of the Management Plan for the Galapagos National Park.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting. The delegations of the State members Norway, Sweden and United States indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.